

B4
Cont illustrated in any one of Figures 1, 21, 23, or 24 as known as SEQ ID Nos. 3, 4, 6, 7, 9, or 10.

B5 44. (amended) A neurotrophic growth factor according to claim 7 comprising the amino acid sequence illustrated in Figure 23 or 24 as known as SEQ ID Nos. 9 or 10.

REMARKS

Claims 7-9, 17-18, 24, 41, and 44 are pending consideration on the merits, with claims 1-6, 10-15, 19-23, 25-40, 42-43, and 45-57 being cancelled without prejudice. The Applicants' amendments to the specification and claims made herein refer to Sequence ID numbers which are identical to those previously provided the Examiner in the response to the Notice to Comply dated November 2, 2000. It is therefore believed that no substitute paper or CDF copies of the Sequence Listing are required to be submitted.

A clean set of the claims reading as written and/or amended has been attached as per 37 CFR 1.121(c) to this response to facilitate the Examiner's understanding and examination of the application as currently pending.

Applicants believe that the specification, claims, and figures of the above-referenced application are now fully in compliance with 37 CFR 1.821-1.825. Applicants therefore respectfully request consideration of all remaining claims on the merits.

AUTHORIZATION

No fee is believed due for this response, other than that due for the petition for extension of time for one (1) month. However, the Commissioner is authorized to make any charges or credits to Greenberg Traurig, LLP's Deposit Account No. 501561.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail pursuant to 37 CFR § 1.8 in an envelope addressed to: Hon. Commissioner of Patents, Washington, DC 20231 on March 16, 2001.

Patrick P. Zaretski
(Print Name)


(Signature)

CLAIMS AS WRITTEN

7. (amended) An isolated human neurotrophic growth factor, designated enovin and having the amino acid sequence illustrated in Figure 1 as known as SEQ ID No. 4, encoded by a nucleic acid molecule encoding said growth_factor or a functional equivalent, derivative or bioprecursor of said growth factor.

8. (amended) A growth factor according to claim 7 comprising the amino acid sequence from position 27 to 139 of the amino acid sequence illustrated in Figure 1 as known as SEQ ID No. 3, or a functional equivalent, derivative or bioprecursor of said growth factor.

9. (amended) A growth factor according to claim 7 comprising the amino acid sequence illustrated in Figure 1 as known as SEQ ID No. 4, or a functional equivalent, derivative or bioprecursor of said growth factor.

17. (amended) A neurotrophic growth factor or a functional equivalent, derivative or bioprecursor thereof, expressed by a host cell transformed or transfected with an expression vector.

18. (amended) A neurotrophic growth factor or a functional equivalent, derivative or bioprecursor thereof, expressed by a transgenic cell, tissue or organism comprising a transgene capable of expressing a neurotrophic growth factor enovin encoded by a DNA molecule encoding a neurotrophic growth factor designated enovin and having the amino acid sequence illustrated in Figure 1 as known as SEQ ID No. 4 or a functional equivalent, derivative or bioprecursor of said growth factor.

24. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a growth factor according to claim 7, together with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, diluent or excipient therefor.

41. (amended) An isolated human neurotrophic growth factor comprising a polypeptide which has at least 85% sequence identity with the amino acid sequence illustrated in any one of Figures 1, 21, 23, or 24 as known as SEQ ID Nos. 3, 4, 6, 7, 9, or 10.

44. (amended) A neurotrophic growth factor according to claim 7 comprising the amino acid sequence illustrated in Figure 23 or 24 as known as SEQ ID Nos. 9 or 10.

45. The growth factor as claimed in claim 17, wherein the expression vector is a DNA molecule encoding a neurotrophic growth factor designated enovin and having the amino acid sequence illustrated in Figure 1 as known as SEQ ID No. 4 or a functional equivalent, derivative or bioprecursor of said growth factor.

46. The growth factor as claimed in claim 17, wherein the expression vector is an antisense molecule capable of hybridizing to the DNA molecule defined in claim 45.